

F.A. CHALLENGE CUP

Second Round Replay



Wigan Athletic

-v-

Northwich Victoria

Monday, 7th January, 1980 — Kick-off 7.45 p.m.

Programme 10p

Welcome to Northwich Victoria

TONIGHT we are pleased to welcome the directors, management, staff and supporters of our old rivals from Northwich to Springfield Park. We trust you will enjoy your visit to Wigan and we look forward to a highly entertaining game of football.

After the fog of Christmas Eve, and the dramatic "Vics" fight back from an almost impossible position last Saturday, there will be no Wigan supporter complacent enough to have booked his or her passage to Stamford Bridge for the Third Round. Indeed, such is local opinion at present that power cuts, monsoons, eclipses and earthquakes would not seem out of place in the long-running saga of their Second Round F.A. Challenge Cup clash.

That the current Northwich Victoria side thrive on cup competition cannot be denied, since tonight's clash (ignoring the abandoned Christmas Eve fixture) is their eleventh game in this year's F.A. Challenge Cup Competition. If one adds to that total seven Alliance Premier League Cup and F.A. Challenge Trophy games, survival must be the name of the game for Ray Williams and his Drill Field boys. Indeed, tonight will be the eighth replay for the "Vics" in their 1979-1980 campaign, and they enter the New Year with the unenviable record of having played more cup ties than league games!!! One wonders how Northwich Victoria's Secretary, John Rowe, will cope with fixture arrangements should the winter turn out to be as long and as troublesome as last year. As for the "Vics" players, they will surely qualify for

the football equivalent of the Croix de Guerre or an Olympic Marathon Gold Medal. All strength and power to their legs!!

Although Northwich Victoria defeated Wigan Athletic in a two-legged Northern Premier League Cup Final in 1972-1973, the Springfield Park club have always come out on top in previous F.A. Cup and F.A. Trophy games. A 1-0 F.A. Cup Fourth Qualifying Round win at Northwich in 1937-1938, and two F.A. Trophy victories at Drill Field, 4-2 in the 1974-1975 Second Round, and 2-0 in the First Round of the 1975-1976 competition, marking the Wigan Athletic successes.

Like Wigan Athletic, Northwich Victoria have enjoyed F.A. Challenge Cup "giant-killing" success, and their performances, three seasons ago, in eliminating Rochdale, Peterborough United and Watford, before going down to Oldham Athletic at Maine Road in the Fourth Round, shine out as classic examples of the threat posed by a non-league club to the "giants" of the Football League.

Whatever the outcome of tonight's replay, the Wigan Athletic Football Club would like to place on record its appreciation of the warm and friendly reception accorded to the directors, staff and supporters on our two recent visits to the Drill Field Ground. We trust that, tonight, we can return the Northwich Victoria Football Club's hospitality in full measure, and we look forward to further encounters with our good friends from our not-too-long-distant non-league days.

F.A. Challenge Cup Review

WITH THE exception of tonight's replayed game between Wigan Athletic and Northwich Victoria, all other teams still interested in the competition have reached the Third or Fourth Round stage, and several interesting facts have emerged.

Only Altrincham, Harlow Town and Northwich Victoria of the non-league contingent retain any interest and all three face testing replays. Should Portsmouth fall to Middlesbrough, should Wigan Athletic succumb to either Northwich or Chelsea, and should Rochdale fail to master Bury, Halifax Town will be the only Fourth Division club left in the competition at the Fourth Round stage. Indeed, should Middlesbrough lose to Portsmouth, Halifax Town will remain as the sole representative of the powerful North-East, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire block of Football League clubs.

No fewer than seven Second Division sides are involved in postponed or replayed Third Round games, and, should the results go badly against the majority, the Third Division could well have a stronger representation in the Fourth Round of the competition than the Second Division. To date only Birmingham City, Burnley, Cambridge United, Watford and Wrexham are definitely through.

Seven Third Division clubs still retain an interest in the competition — Blackburn Rovers, Bury, Carlisle United, Chester, Millwall, Reading, and Swindon Town, this year's "shock" side in the Football League Cup.

Several "big guns" have already made their exit. Leeds United, Manchester City, Newcastle United, Southampton, Sunderland and either Tottenham Hotspur or Manchester United will take no further part in the proceedings.

Prior to today's Fourth Round Draw being made, it would be a brave man who would look beyond Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United or Nottingham Forest as potential winners. However, with clubs such as Aston Villa, Ipswich Town and Norwich City waiting in the wings, it is far too early to make positive predictions. Without doubt, there will be more shocks in store before F.A. Cup Final Day in May.

As might have been expected, last Saturday's top "gate" was the 49,706 attending the Liverpool -v- Grimsby Town clash at Anfield, but the replay between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford, on Wednesday evening, will probably produce even better figures, having already attracted the second largest crowd of 45,207 to White Hart Lane for the first game. It is little wonder that the "minnows" of the competition look forward avidly to drawing one of the game's "giants"



Match Officials

REFEREE:
Mr. T. L. Morris
(Leeds)

LINESMEN:
Red Flag Yellow Flag
Mr. A. Jones (Wirral) Mr. G. K. Parry (Maghull)

Teams

WIGAN ATHLETIC (Royal Blue & White Stripes)

Selected from:
JOHN BROWN
DAVE FRETWELL
JOE HINNIGAN
TOMMY GORE
COLIN METHVEN
NEIL DAVIDS
FRANK CORRIGAN
JEFF WRIGHT
PETER HOUGHTON
TONY QUINN
GEORGE URQUHART
MICKY MOORE
DEREK BROWNBILL
RON MacIVOR

NORTHWICH VICTORIA (Green Shirts)

Selected from:
DAVID RYAN
BOB RITCHIE
JIM COLLIER
ALBIE NIEMAN
KEN JONES
KEITH BRAITHWAITE
PAUL MAYMENT
DAVID HALL
TERRY BAILEY
GRAHAM SMITH
FRANK SROMEK
DAVID O'NEIL
LESLIE WAIN
STEVE WILSHAW

Match Ball Donation

Tonight's match ball is donated in
memory of Keith Burton.

Special Notice

In the event of the scores being
level at the end of normal playing
time, a thirty-minute period of extra
time will be played.